

veritable panorama of the development under consideration. The works of Huygens, Descartes, Hooke, Newton, Faraday, and many others, far more rare, have also been exploited by the authors and publisher in lavish and commendable manner; and it is our only regret that we cannot give more space to the notice of the important phases of human thought which they represent. Certainly, to many readers this book will prove an inspiring one.

T. J. McCORMACK.

ASPIRATION.

A SONNET.

'Tis the afterglow of sunset! and a mist
 Of molten gold, at the bidding of the breeze,
 Is blown athwart the sky beyond yon trees,
 Wind-woven with waves of fire-fringed amethyst.
 No limits bar the soul! Where'er it list,
 Borne on the untrammelled wings of Joy, it flees
 Through throbbing paths of light: yet naught it sees,
 Nor dreams of aught, save but to be star-kissed.
 On! on! it hastens; all its heart athirst
 With love unspeakable, to touch with love
 That lovely light which glimmers now in grey:
 On! on! until in Hesper's arms, where erst
 It yearned to lie, it sinks; as all above
 Night's palsy stills the last faint pulse of Day.

F. J. P.

AN AMERICAN ANTHOLOGY.

The task of compiling an anthology of American verse¹ could not have been entrusted to a more sympathetic critic than Mr. Edmund Clarence Stedman, the author of the admirable *Victorian Anthology*, and himself a poet of no mean merit. He has performed his work with true American breadth and in a democratic spirit that few would have had the courage to exhibit, but which has shown the development of our national versification in all its varied phases, in its highest as well as its lowest sources, demonstrating it to be a genuine utterance of the national heart, "of import in the past and to the future,"—a powerful stimulant to the nation's growth. By his wide inclusiveness of selection he has put it beyond a doubt that "if our native anthology yields to a foreign one in wealth of choice production," it is still "from an equally vital point of view the more significant of the two." Throughout the years resulting in the Civil War, literature was with us really a force; and a generous foreign critic, Mr. William Archer, has in Mr. Stedman's judgment truly said: "The whole world will one day come to hold Vicksburg and Gettysburg names of larger historic import than Waterloo or Sedan." "If this be so," Mr. Stedman continues, "the significance of a literature

¹ *An American Anthology, 1787-1899. Selections Illustrating the Editor's Critical Review of American Poetry in the Nineteenth Century.* Edited by *Edmund Clarence Stedman*. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1900. Pages, lxvii, 878. Price, large crown 8vo, \$3.00; full gilt, \$3 50; half calf, \$5.00.